



# The Year 1000: What Life Was Like at the Turn of the First Millennium, An Englishman's World

*By Robert Lacey, Danny Danziger*

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As the Shadow of the Millennium Descended Across England and Christendom, it Seemed as if the World was About to End. Actually, it was Only the Beginning... Welcome to the Year 1000. This is What Life was Like. How clothes were fastened in a world without buttons, p.10 The rudiments of medieval brain surgery, p.124 The first millennium's Bill Gates, p.192 How dolphins forecasted weather, p.140 The recipe for a medieval form of Viagra, p.126 Body parts a married woman had to forfeit if she committed adultery, p.171 The fundamental rules of warfare, p.154 How fried and crushed black snails could improve your health, p.127 And much more...

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

*"August was the month when flies started to become a problem, buzzing round the dung heaps in the corner of every farmyard and hovering over the open cesspits of human refuse that were located outside every house."*

Although daily dangers were many, housing uncomfortable, and the dominant smells unpleasant indeed, life in England at the turn of the previous millennium was not at all bad, write journalists Lacey and Danziger. "If you were to meet an Englishman in the year 1000," they continue, "the first thing that would strike you would be how tall he was--very much the size of anyone alive today." The Anglo-Saxons were not only tall, but also generally well fed and healthy, more so than many Britons only a few generations ago. Writing in a breezy, often humorous style, Lacey and Danziger draw on the medieval *Julius Work Calendar*, a document detailing everyday life around A.D. 1000, to reconstruct the spirit and reality of the era. Light though their touch is, they've done their homework, and they take the reader on a well-documented and enjoyable month-by-month tour through a single year, touching on such matters as religious belief, superstition, medicine, cuisine, agriculture, and politics, as well as contemporary ideas of the self and society. Readers should find the authors' discussions of famine and plague a refreshing break from present-day millennial worries, and a very stimulating introduction to medieval English history. --Gregory McNamee

#### From Publishers Weekly

Offering a delightful, often astonishing portrait of everyday life in Anglo-Saxon England in the year 1000, this wonderfully earthy chronicle, while timed for the end of this millennium, distinguishes itself from the sea of millennial titles by focusing on the end of the last one. Lacey (Sotheby's *Bidding for Class*), a popular British historian, and London-based journalist Danziger (*The Orchestra*) focus on aspects of daily living. The Anglo-Saxons, a practical, self-contained, fervently superstitious people, were 99% illiterate, yet their language would become their most widespread legacy. Bristol was a slave-trading port, and the use of "bondservants" was a basic underpinning of the rural economy (the Norman invasion of 1066 would replace servitude with feudalism). There was no sugar, but honey was so valued that it became a form of currency. Personal hygiene was almost nonexistent, and most adults died in their 40s. Engla-lond, as the country was called, endured the best and the worst of times, enjoying unmatched prosperity but also falling prey to Viking raids, a menace that King Ethelred (the Unready) exacerbated by paying protection money. The narrative is organized in 12 chapters—one for each month—plus a closing chapter assessing the Anglo-Saxon legacy. Prefacing each chapter is a nimble, remarkably modern-looking, secular drawing of laborers' activities reproduced from the *Julius Work Calendar*, probably created by a cleric working in Canterbury Cathedral around 1020. This is a superb time capsule, and the authors distill a wealth of historical information into brightly entertaining reading. Agent, Curtis Brown. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From Library Journal

Authors Lacey (Grace, LJ 9/1/94; Sotheby's, LJ 5/1/98) and Danziger (of the London Independent) have set out to capture what life was like in Anglo-Saxon England at the end of the first millennium. The framework for their story was provided by a priceless written work from that period, "The *Julius Work Calendar*." Designed to allow readers to keep track of saints' days, the calendar also includes impressionistic sketches that illustrate the common activities of each month and lines of Latin verse in the form of singsong doggerel to illuminate the activities portrayed in the sketches. The authors make use of the sketches and verse to

describe each month's activities and in so doing dispel some popular misconceptions about life in late Anglo-Saxon England. For example, in the England of the year 1000 the forests occupied about as much area as they do today, and Anglo-Saxon women, on average, were taller than modern English women. This popular history should appeal to both the general reader and students of the period and is recommended for public and academic libraries. Robert James Andrews, Duluth P.L., MN  
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#### **Margarita Toman:**

The knowledge that you get from *The Year 1000: What Life Was Like at the Turn of the First Millennium, An Englishman's World* may be the more deep you digging the information that hide into the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but *The Year 1000: What Life Was Like at the Turn of the First Millennium, An Englishman's World* giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by simply anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this *The Year 1000: What Life Was Like at the Turn of the First Millennium, An Englishman's World* instantly.

#### **Gina Keller:**

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a e-book. The book *The Year 1000: What Life Was Like at the Turn of the First Millennium, An Englishman's World* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

#### **Alma Lewis:**

In this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of many books in the top checklist in your reading list is *The Year 1000: What Life Was Like at the Turn of the First Millennium, An Englishman's World*. This book and that is qualified as *The Hungry Inclines* can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking way up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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